

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, first full paragraph:

The present invention has been made in consideration of the above problems. It is accordingly an aspect ~~object~~ of the present invention to provide a system and method for supporting user registration with ease, when information regarding a user who possesses a multi-component product including a plurality of products is registered at each company providing the products, and a recording medium which records the system and/or method.

Paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3:

According to a first aspect ~~In order to accomplish the above object, according to the first aspect~~ of the present invention, there is provided a user registration supporting system which supports a user, who uses a multi-component product including a plurality of products provided by a plurality of companies, in applying for user registration for the plurality of products, the system comprising:

a user-information database which stores user information including a plurality of data items and regarding the user;

a user-information providing section which provides the user-information database with the user information; and

a to-be-registered information generating section which extracts at least one data item required by each of the plurality of companies for the user registration, from the user information

stored in the user-information database, and generates to-be-registered information used by each of the plurality of companies for the user registration, and

wherein the system can generate the to-be-registered information for the plurality of companies at once, based on the user information.

Page 5, fifth full paragraph:

According to a second aspect ~~In order to achieve the above object, according to the second aspect~~ of the present invention, there is provided a method for supporting a user, who uses a multi-component product including a plurality of products provided by a plurality of companies, in applying for user registration for the plurality of products, the method comprising:

storing user information including a plurality of data items and regarding the user;

extracting at least one data item required by each of the plurality of companies for the user registration, from the stored user information, and generating to-be-registered information used by each of the plurality of companies for the user registration, thereby to generate the to-be-registered information for the plurality of companies at once, based on the user information.

Page 8, second full paragraph:

According to a third aspect ~~In order to achieve the above object, according to the third aspect~~ of the present invention, there is provided a computer readable recording medium which records a program for controlling a computer to execute:

storing user information including a plurality of data items regarding a user who uses a multi-component product including a plurality of products provided by a plurality of companies; and

extracting a data item required by each of the plurality of companies for user registration, from the stored user information, and generating to-be-registered information used by each of the plurality of companies for the user registration.

Paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9:

The aspects ~~object and other objects~~ and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent upon reading of the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a diagram for explaining a user registration process adopting a user registration supporting system of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a diagram showing the structure of a network system including a management server installed in a management company shown in FIG 1;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing the structure of the management server shown in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a diagram showing an example of the storage contents of a user-information database;

FIG. 5 is a diagram showing an example of the storage contents of a company-information database of the management server;

FIG. 6 is a diagram showing an example of data included in user information for a company "A";

FIG. 7 is a diagram showing an example of data included in user information for a company "B";

FIG. 8 is a flowchart for explaining a user registration process which is carried out by the user registration supporting system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a flowchart for explaining a user registration process which is carried out by the user registration supporting system according to the first embodiment;

FIG. 10 is a flowchart for explaining another process which is carried out by the user registration supporting system according to the first embodiment;

FIG. 11 is a flowchart showing a process for providing information regarding products;

FIG. 12 is a flowchart for explaining a process for updating registered information which is carried out by a user registration supporting system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a flowchart for explaining a process for updating registered information which is carried out by the user registration supporting system according to the second embodiment;

FIG. 14 is a diagram showing the structure of a user registration supporting system according to the third embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 15 is a flowchart for explaining a process which is carried out by the user registration supporting system according to the third embodiment;

FIG. 16 is a flowchart for explaining a process which is carried out by the user registration supporting system according to the third embodiment; and

FIG. 17 is a diagram exemplifying data of product information.

Page 12, second full paragraph:

As illustrated in FIG. 4[[4A]], the user-information database 126 stores user information provided from the user terminal 110. As shown in FIG. 4[[4A]], the user information includes data items of “User-Name”, “Email Address”, “Residential Address”, “Phone Number”, “Section Name-of Workplace”, “Address-of Workplace”, and “Section Phone Number-of Workplace”.

Page 12, third full paragraph:

As illustrated in FIG. 5[[4B]], the company-information database 127 stores information regarding each of the registration companies 30 for a corresponding model name and model number of the multi-component product. As shown in FIG. 5[[4B]], the information regarding each of the registration companies 30 includes data items of “Company Name”, “ID Number”, “URL”, and a set of items of the to-be-registered information. Likewise the data items stored in the user-information database 126, the to-be-registered information includes the set of data items of “User-Name”, “Email Address”, “Residential Address”, “Phone Number”, “Section Name-of Workplace”, “Address-of Workplace”, and “Section Phone Number-of Workplace”.

Page 13, fifth full paragraph:

The registration server 130 has a user-registration database 140 for storing the to-be-registered information. FIG. 6[[5A]] shows the structure of user-information database 140A for a company “A”, while FIG. 7[[5B]] shows the structure of user-information database 140B for a company “B”. As shown in FIG. 6[[5A]], the data items required by the company “A” for the user registration include those of “~~User~~-Name”, “Email Address”, “Residential Address”, “Phone Number”, and “Section Name of Workplace”. As shown in FIG. 7[[5B]], the data items required by the company “B” for the user registration include those of “~~User~~-Name”, “Email Address”, and “Residential Address”.

Page 14, first full paragraph:

A user registration process, since the preparation of the registration until the completion thereof, in the user registration supporting system according to this embodiment, will now specifically be explained with reference to the flowcharts of FIGS. ~~8-106 to 8~~. Each of FIGS. ~~8-106 to 8~~ shows the flow of each process which is carried out among the devices included in the user registration supporting system.

Page 14, third full paragraph:

Before the user 10 applies for the user registration, the management company 20 obtains, in advance, the model name and model number of the user terminal 110, and also the items included in the to-be-registered information required by the companies “A” and “B” for the user

registration. The flow of this preparation process for the user registration is shown in FIG. 8[[6]].

Page 15, first full paragraph:

In the step S103, in the case where the items specified by the companies “A” and “B” are like those shown in FIGS. 4[[4A]] and 5[[4B]], the management server 120 creates a user format which includes to-be-filled items of “User Name”, “Email Address”, “Residential Address”, “Phone Number”, “~~Section Name of Workplace~~”, “Product Name”, and “Model Number” of the user terminal 110. According to the above procedures, the preparation for the user registration is completed.

Page 15, second full paragraph:

The process to be carried out, when the user 10 applies the management company 20 for the user registration, between the user terminal 110 and the management server 120 is shown in FIG. 9[[7]].

Page 16, second full paragraph:

Shown in FIG. 10[[8]] are the flow of the process for generating to-be-registered information in the step S205 and the flow of the process executed by the registration server 130.

Page 17, first full paragraph:

In the step S305, the user registration database 140 of the company “A” registers the to-be-registered information in the manner shown in FIG. 6[[5A]], whereas the user registration database 140 of the company “B” registers the to-be-registered information like the one shown in FIG. 7[[5B]].

Page 17, fourth full paragraph:

Now, the procedure of the step S205 shown in FIG. 9[[7]] is completed.

Page 18, first full paragraph:

The flow of providing of product information is ~~exemplarily~~ shown by example in FIG. 11[[9]]. As seen from FIG. 11[[9]], the registration server 130 sends various information such as the version-up information and the maintenance information to the management server 120 through the network NW (Step S401). Upon reception of such information from the registration server 130, the management server 120 creates product information collectively including the product information from the registration server 130, and sends the created product information to the user terminal 110 (Step S402).

Paragraph bridging pages 18 and 19:

A process for updating the information registered by the user registration supporting system according to the second embodiment is shown in FIGS. 12[[10]] and 13[[11]]. FIGS.

12[[10]] and 13[[11]] show the flow of the process which is carried out among the devices included in the user registration supporting system.

Page 20, first full paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 13[[11]], the management server 120 updates any data item(s) included in the user information stored in the user-information database 126 (Step S601). The management server 120 extracts information regarding the registration companies 30 providing products, based on the model number and the model name, from the company-information database 127 (Step S602). The management server 120 makes a list of any registration companies 30 which specify a data item(s) of the user information which is(are) to be corrected, of the extracted registration companies 30 (Step S603). Then, the management server 120 creates to-be-registered information for the registration companies 30 which are included in the list (Step S604). The management server 120 sends the created to-be-registered information to the registration companies 30 included in the list (Step S605).

Page 21, second full paragraph:

FIG. 14[[12]] is a diagram showing the structure of the user registration supporting system of this embodiment. This user registration supporting system comprises the user terminal 110, the management server 120, the registration server 130, a new-company terminal 150, and the network NW. The component elements, except the new-company terminal 150, are the same

as those in the user registration supporting system shown in FIG. 2. Hence, the same reference numerals denote the same component elements.

Page 22, second full paragraph:

Shown in FIGS. 15[[13]] and 16[[14]] are processes which are carried out when the user 10 is moving to a new address and desires to make a contract with an Internet provider providing the most reasonable services to the user in a region of the new address.

Paragraph bridging pages 22 and 23:

The user 10 inputs update data including the date on which the user 10 moves to the new address, the new address, and the like, through the user terminal 110. The user 10 inputs also requesting data representing a request for searching the Internet provider providing the most reasonable services to the user 10 in the new residential region. As shown in FIG. 15[[13]], the user terminal 110 sends the input update data and requesting data to the management server 120 through the network NW (Step S701). The management server 120 receives the sent update data and requesting data, and stores the received data in the user-information database 126 (Step S702). The management server 120 sends the update data to the registration companies 30 based on the model name and number of the user terminal 110 (Step S703), and supports each of the registration companies 30 in updating the registered user information. The management server 120 makes a list of new companies 50 from the company-information database 127, based on the requesting data (Step S704). The management server 120 creates to-be-registered information

for each of the new companies 50, based on the specification information specified by each of the new companies 50 which are included in the list (Step S705). The management server 120 sends the created to-be-registered information and the requesting data to the new-company terminal 150 included in each of the listed new companies 50. Further, the management server 120 sends the data contents and the name of each of the new companies 50, which have been sent to the new-company terminal 150, to the user terminal 110 (Step S706). Hence, the user 10 can be aware that his/her own information is sent to which companies. The new-company terminal 150 receives the to-be-registered information and requesting data, and carries out a process for supporting the user selecting and purchasing a product based on the requesting data, as will be explained later (Step S707).

Page 23, first full paragraph:

The process executed in the step S707 is ~~exemplarily~~ shown by example in FIG. 16[[14]].

Page 23, second full paragraph:

The new-company terminal 150 extracts advertisement information for products from an internal database, and sends the extracted advertisement information to the user terminal 110 and management server 120 (Step S801). The data of the advertisement information includes, as shown in FIG. 17[[15]], service contents, an access point (telephone number to be accessed).